

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

IO-13 (ISO) W

-----106669 161947Z /45

R 160454Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2326

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 3101

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, NP, SA

SUBJECT: NEPAL TO OPEN EMBASSY IN SAUDI ARABIA

1. LOCAL PRESS ANNOUNCED JUNE 9 THAT GON HAD DECIDED TO OPEN AN EMBASSY IN SAUDI ARABIA. ACCORDING TO PRESS, CHANCEOR IS TO BE LOCATED IN RIYADH, BUT WHEN QUERIED, MFA UNDERSECRETARY FOR MIDDLE EAST, ARJN SINGH, NOTED THAT GON DID NOT KNOW WHERE IT WOULD SET UP SHOP -- THAT WOULD DEPEND ON DISCUSSIONS WITH SAG FOREIGN

MINISTRY IN JIDDA. AT LEAST FOR PRESEMD, NEPALESE EMBASSY WILL BE UNDER DIRECTION OF CHARGE, SAYED ANWAR SHAH. SHAH'S PRIMARY CLAIM TO FAME ACCORDING TO SINGH IS THAT HE IS MOSLEM -- HE IS NOT CAREER DIPLOMAT. HE WAS PREVIOUSLY VICE-CHAIRMAN OF COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION, BUT SINGH STATES HE DID STUDY POLITICAL SCIENCE IN GENEVA* SINGH STATES SHAH WILL LEAVE KATHMANDU JUNE 16, SPENDING

A FEW DAYS IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN ENROUTE, BEFORE ARRIVING IN JIDDA TO ENJOY BALMY SUMMER WEATHER*

2. COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES HERE HAVE BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TALKING FOR SOME TIME ABOUT NEED FOR EMBASSY SOMEWHERE IN ARABIAN PENINSULA, FILLING THE GAP BETWEEN EXISTING POSTS IN TEHRAN AND CAIRO. SAUDI ARABIA IS PRESUMABLY LOGICAL CHOICE FROM A STANDPOINT OF POSSIBLY OBTAINING AKRTHIER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE -- ALTHOUGH KUWAIT IS ALSO ALREADY A DONOR HERE. BUT GON CLEARLY KNOWS VERY LITTLE OF WHAT IT IS GETTING INTO. MR. SHAH HAS BEEN

SENT OFF INTO THE DESERT TO MEET WITH SAG OFFICIALS IN
JIDDA AFTER WHICH "WE WILL SEE WHAT HAPPENS." HOPEFULLY
SOMEONE HAS SET ASIDE THE CONSIDERABLE SUM OF MONEY
NEEDED TO FOOT THE BILL - AND HOPEFULLY THE RETURN IN
TERMS OF FUTURE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WILL MAKE IT WORTH WHILE.
HECK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC MISSION OPENING, EMBASSIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KATHMA03101
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780252-0705
Format: TEL
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780651/aaaabryi.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8dd85087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2324814
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEPAL TO OPEN EMBASSY IN SAUDI ARABIA
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, NP, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8dd85087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014